

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 NOUAKC 02122 281149Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 /111 W
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P 281015Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 059
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USCINCEUR VAIVSNGEN GE

S E C R E T NOUAKCHOTT 2122

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PEPR, AG, LY, MO, SS
SUBJ: SAHARA WATCH: MAURITANIAN DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES REPORTED

1. MAURITANIAN SOURCE OF UNTESTED RELIABILITY BUT CLAIMING
GOOD ACCESS TOLD EMBOFF JULY 26 THAT ON JULY 23, RULING MAURI-
TANIAN MILITARY COMMITTEE (CMRN) MEMBER MAJOR MOULAYE OULD
BOUKHREISS MET WITH SAHRAOUI REPUBLIC FON MIN HAKIM IBRAHIM
IN TRIPOLI DURING FORMER'S VISIT THERE WHICH ENDED JULY 25.
SOURCE HAD NO INFORMATION ON WHAT TRANSPIRED DURING THIS
MEETING.

2. SOURCE WENT ON TO SAY THAT LIBYANS WERE ACTING AS
INTERMIDIARIES BETWEEN MAURITANIANS ON THE ONE HAND AND
ALGERIANS AND POLISARIO ON OTHER. IN THIS CONNECTION

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SECRET

PAGE 02 NOUAKC 02122 281149Z

SOURCE SAID THAT CMRN PRESIDETN SALECK WOULD SOON JOURNEY
TO TRIPOLI TO MEET WITH BOUMEDIENE. LIBYANS SAID TO HAVE
OFFERED GIRM LARGE DOSE OF CREDIT IN RETURN FOR WITHDRAWAL
OF MAURITANIAN FORCES FROM SAHARA AND RECOGNITION OF SAHRAOUI
RIGHT YG SEF-DETERMINATION.

3. SOURCE ALSO SAID THAT, DURING HIS VISIT TO PARIS JULY

17-20, CMRN MEMBER AND EQUIPMENT MINISTER LT. COLONEL AHMED SALEM OULD SIDI ASKED FRENCH IF THEY WOULD PROVIDE AIR COVER TO MAURITANIANS IN EVENT THAT LATTER ATTACKED BY FORCES (I.E. MOROCCANS OR ALGERIANS) OTHER THAN POLISARIO. RESPONSE SAID TO HAVE BEEN NEGATIVE.

4. SOURCE ALSO CLAIMED THAT MAURITANIAN EFFORTS TO OBTAIN IMMEDIATE CREDITS FROM SAUDIS HAD BEEN UNAVAILING. LATTER REPORTEDLY PREFER TO WAIT A MONTH OR TWO TO SEE HOW SITUATION IN MAURITANIA DEVELOPS BEFORE ACTING. FOR THIS REASON, SOURCE SAID, MAURITANIAN JUSTICE MINISTER BE OULD NE HAS BEEN DISPATCHED ON FUND-RAISING VISIT TO GULF STATES.

5. COMMENT: SOURCESKRS REPORT ON MAURITANIAN-POLISARIO CONTACTS MOST PRECISE IN SERIES OF SIMILAR INDICATIONS WE HAVE BEEN RECEIVING IN PAST WEEK. COLONEL OULD SIDI'S VISIT TO TRIPOLI WILL DOUBTLESS INCREASE SPECULATION THAT MAURITANIANS ARE CONSIDERING LIBYAN OFFER TO MEDIATE SAHARA CONFLICT. AS ALWAYS SUCH HYPOTHESIZING QUICKLY ENCOUNTERS IMPONDERABLE OF MOROCCAN ATTITUDE. LIKE OTHER OBSERVERS HERE, WE THINK MOROCCANS MAY BE REFRAINING FROM APPLYING PRESSURE TO NEW MAURITANIAN REGIME IN ORDER TO GIVE IT THE CHANCE TO ASSESS YS POSITION, AND MAURITANIANS SEEM TO BE TAKING SOUNDINGS WHEREVER THEY CAN. KRYZA

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